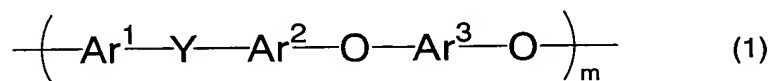
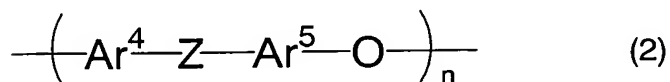


ABSTRACT

A block copolymer comprising at least one segment having an acid group which is represented by the following formula (1) and at least one segment substantially free from acid groups which comprises repeating units represented by the following formula (2) is provided:



(wherein, m represents an integer of 10 or more, Ar¹, Ar² and Ar³ represent each independently a divalent aromatic group which is optionally substituted by an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms or aryloxy group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, at least one of Ar¹ and Ar² having an acid group, and Ar³ may have an acid group or may be free from acid groups. Y represents -CO- or -SO₂-, and Y's may be different from each other.)



(wherein, n represents an integer of 10 or more, Ar⁴ and Ar⁵

represent each independently a divalent aromatic group which is optionally substituted by an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aryl group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, aryloxy group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms or fluoro group. Z represents -CO- or -SO₂-, and Z's may be different from each other). The block copolymer exerts more excellent performances as the polymer electrolyte in fuel cells and the like.